

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus comprising:

5 a plurality of circuit boards, each having electronic circuitry including a non-volatile memory containing product data that identifies the respective circuit board and means for reading the product data in said non-volatile memory; and

a backplane for mounting and interconnecting said circuit boards.

10 2. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a read-only memory.

3. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises an electrically-erasable programmable read-only memory.

15 4. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a serial EEPROM.

20 5. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said each of said circuit boards further comprises means for providing external access to the product data in said non-volatile memory through said backplane.

25 6. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said product data includes one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

7. A computer storage system comprising:

an array of storage devices;

a system cache memory; and

30 a plurality of controller boards for controlling data transfer to and between said array of storage devices, said system cache memory and a host computer, each of said controller boards having electronic circuitry including a non-volatile memory containing product data

that identifies the respective controller board and means for reading the product data in said non-volatile memory.

8. A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said non-volatile memory
5 comprises a read-only memory.

9. A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said non-volatile memory comprises a serial EEPROM.

10 10. A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 further comprising a backplane for mounting and interconnecting said controller boards, wherein each of said controller boards further comprises means for providing external access to the product data in said non-volatile memory through said backplane.

11. A computer storage system as defined in claim 7 wherein said product data includes one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

12. A method for identifying a circuit board, comprising the steps of:
20 placing a non-volatile memory device on the circuit board;
storing product data that identifies the circuit board in the non-volatile memory device;
and
reading the product data in said non-volatile memory device.

25 13. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the step of storing product data comprises storing one or more of a board part number, a board serial number, a board revision level, a cabinet serial number and text comments.

14. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a
30 serial EEPROM.